

Appl. No. 10/787,174
Amendment dated November 2, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 7, 2006



AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 7 and 10. These sheets, which include Figures 7, 9, and 10, replace the original sheets including Figures 7, 9, and 10.

Attachment: two (2) replacement sheets



REMARKS

In the August 7, 2006 Office Action, the drawing, specification, and claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 12, and 14 were objected to and claims 1-9 were rejected for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Further, claims 10, 11, 13-18, and 21 were allowed, with the allowance of claims 13-15 being contingent. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the August 7, 2006 Office Action, Applicant has amended the specification, drawings, and claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 13, and 14, and has cancelled claims 2, 7, 12, and 16 as indicated above. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. Thus, claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-15, and 17-21 are pending, with claims 1 and 10 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Election/Restrictions

In item 3 of the Office Action, Applicant's election without traverse in the reply filed on August 5, 2005 was acknowledged. Thus, as mentioned in item 3 of the Office Action, non-elected claims 19 and 20 were withdrawn from further consideration. However, Applicant respectfully requests that non-elected claims 19 and 20 be rejoined in this application upon allowance of a generic or linking claim, or claims. Specifically, non-elected claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 10, which has been allowed.

Drawings

In item 4 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to because they show an unidentified element that appears to relate to patentable features of the claimed invention. In response, Applicant has amended the drawings and specification to identify the element as a

protrusion 151a' of the protrusion 151a. Since this element is shown in the drawings and, according the Office Action, relates to the claims, Applicant respectfully asserts that no new matter has been added.

Specification

In item 5 of the Office Action, the specification was objected to because of a typographical error on page 25, line 16 that reads "window 8e" instead of -- window 8e --. In response, Applicant has amended the paragraph as suggested.

Further, in response to item 4 of the Office Action, as stated above, Applicant has amended the specification to identify the protrusion of the protrusion 151a as 151a'. In response, Applicant has amended the drawings to identify the element as a protrusion 151a' of the protrusion 151a. Since this element is shown in the drawings and, according the Office Action, relates to the claims, Applicant respectfully asserts that no new matter has been added.

Applicant believes that the specification is now correct. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

In item 6 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4, and 14 were objected to for grammatical errors. In item 7 of the Office Action, claims 2 and 12 were objected to for being of improper dependent form for failing to limit further the subject matter of a previous claim. In item 8 of the Office Action, claim 7 was objected to for being a substantial duplicate of claim 3.

In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct the phrase "a flange having window opening" to recite -- a flange having a window opening --, claim 4 to correct the phrase "said contact portions is" to recite -- said contact portions are --, and claim 14 to

correct "one of ends" to recite -- one of said ends --. Further, Applicant has cancelled claims 2, 7, and 12.

Applicant believes that the claims are now correct and respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

In item 9 of the Office Action, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and has included comments to support the traversals.

Specifically, it is stated in the Office Action that Applicant has not indicated where the recited limitation "[said plate member] being movable with respect to said first and second rotating members in a rotation direction," in lines 7 and 8 of claim 1 is supported and that there does not appear to be a written description of the limitation in the application as originally filed.

Referring to paragraph [0020] of the written disclosure, the hub 106 is identified as being a first rotating member, in paragraph [0030], the intermediate rotating member 110 is identified as being a second rotating member, and in paragraph [0039], the plate spring 162 is identified as being a plate member. As seen in Figure 11 of the present application, the plate spring 162 is movable with respect to the first rotating member 106 and second rotating member 110.

Further, referring to Figures 5 and 10 of the present application, Applicant respectfully asserts that the specification identifies in paragraph [0022] that the radius concave part 164a is part of the window opening 143, which is part of the hub 106. Paragraph [0041] of the written disclosure states that there is a rotational direction gap 158 ($\theta 17$) between the plate member 162 and the radius concave part 164a. Further, paragraph

[0061] states that the plate spring 162 does not operate for minute torsional vibrations of torsional angles less [than] $\theta 17$. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that the written disclosure as originally filed describes that the plate member 162 is movable with respect to the first rotating member in a rotational direction.

Moreover, the present application discloses in paragraph [0041] that the plate member 162 is arranged in the bush 151, which is disclosed in paragraph [0030] as part of the second rotating member 110. In paragraph [0051] of the written disclosure, it is stated that the plate member 162 slides over the wall of the groove 151f of the protruding part 151a of the bush 151. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that the written disclosure as originally filed describes that the plate member is movable with respect to the second rotating member in the rotational direction.

Applicant respectfully asserts that aforementioned examples are cited as an example and are not intended to limit the invention.

Applicant believes that the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter


In item 10 of the Office Action, it was stated that claims 10, 11, 13-18, and 21 were allowed, with the allowance of claims 13-15 being contingent. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. In response, Applicant has amended claim 13 so that claims 13-15 depend from an allowed claim as suggested. Further, claim 14 has been amended to correct the grammatical error mentioned above to overcome the objection. Thus, claims 10, 11, 13-18, and 21 are believed to be allowable.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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